



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR ROMA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION INC.

ROMA, TEXAS, June 10, 2004 – USDA Rural Development, State Director, Bryan Daniel, announced today that Roma Economic Development Corporation, Inc. has received a \$76,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant. USDA Rural Development is charged with assisting rural communities by administering programs targeted to strengthening the economy and infrastructure of rural areas.

“We are pleased to fund this project in Roma,” said Daniel. “One of our goals is to provide access to credit for rural businesses. We are proud that USDA Rural Development programs play a role in the growth of rural economies, and increase job opportunities for rural Texans and their families. This grant will assist Roma and the surrounding areas, providing additional economic stability for Starr County.”

USDA Rural Development funds will be used to create a revolving loan fund, attractive to small and emerging businesses, who may utilize the funds to locate or expand in the city of Roma. Applicants will be considered based upon their commitment to create or retain jobs that benefit primarily the city and county residents. This grant will create and save 8 to 10 jobs, making them available to the citizen of Roma.

Potential businesses in rural communities interested in the RBEG program must employ 50 or fewer new employees; have less than \$1 million in projected gross revenue; have or will utilize technological innovations or commercialize new products that can be produced or manufactured in rural areas; or have new processes that can be used in such production. Public bodies and not-for-profit entities including Federally recognized Indian Tribes located in rural areas or in communities under 50,000 population are eligible. Priority is given to applicants from communities of 25,000 or less.

USDA Rural Development works to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global marketplace, by providing programs that assist rural Americans in building strong economies and to improve their quality of life. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Rio Grande City Local Office at 956-487-5576, Ext. 4, or visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

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